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2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR



CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

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PIONEER OF THE YEAR

ELLIS JACOB

SILVER SPOTLIGHT RECIPIENTS

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THE CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND MEMBERS ACROSS CANADA CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S HONOUREES AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PIONEERS. WE ALSO EXTEND HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS AND SPONSORS NATIONWIDE, WHOSE SUPPORT THROUGH EVENTS, ANNUAL DONATIONS, AND IN-MEMORY BEQUESTS HELPS US ASSIST THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.

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SONY PICTURES

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A COMCAST COMPANY

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2026-27 Board of Directors *Back row from left:* Jason Fulsom, Greg Mason, Darren Stokes, Ryan Dion, Jason Wright, Adrian Herscovici, John Pederson, Adam Tameron, John Freeborn. *Front row from left:* Courtney Patterson-Holloway, Silvia Murday, Gurbani Marwah, Sarah Brown, Sandy Power, Cathy Watson, Sara Fleming, Danish Vahidy.

2026 National and Branch BOARD of DIRECTORS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Danish Vahidy

Vice Presidents: Sarah Brown, Jason Fulsom, Gurbani Marwah, Greg Mason, Adam Tameron, Jason Wright

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Secretary: Kylie Bechberger

Executive Director: Adrian Herscovici

Directors: Margaret Burnside, Sundeep Chauhan, Ryan Dion, Sara Fleming, John Freeborn, Jennifer Hofley, Nicole Horak, Quincy Kelman, Jennifer Kolber, Joanna Miles, Silvia Murday, Sandy Power, Sarah Timlick

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Auditor: Brendan Pennylegion, Pennylegion & Chung LLP

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Secretary/Treasurer: Phil May

Trustees: Neil Campbell, John Freeborn, Danish Vahidy

Executive Director: Adrian Herscovici

Investment Portfolio Manager: Susan Howson, Research Capital Corporation

ALBERTA BRANCH

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Vice President: Jared Middleton

Secretary/Treasurer: Dawn Czuroski

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Trust Fund Liaison: Michael Mosca

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Co-Founder & Co-Director: Sarah Brown
Co-Director: Kylie Bechberger

PAST PRESIDENTS 1940–2026

1940–41	Clair Hague	*1966–67*	Leonard Bishop	*1986–88*	Barry Carnon
1942	O.R. Hanson	*1968–69*	Myer Axler	*1989–90*	Ron Emilio
1943–45	Clair Hague	*1970*	A.L. "Pat" Travers	*1990*	Barry Silver
1946	Leo Devaney	*1971*	Lloyd C. Pearson	*1990–92*	Robert Stinson
1947–49	Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C.	*1972–73*	Leonard Bernstein	*1993–94*	Michael Taylor
1950	Ray Lewis	*1974–75*	Lionel Lester	*1995–97*	Phil Carlton
1951	O.R. Hanson	*1976–77*	Don Watts	*1998–2001*	Cathy Watson
1952–55	N.A. Taylor	*1978*	Gerald Dillon	*2002–2017*	Phil May
1956–57	Morris Stein	*1979–80*	Orval Fruitman	*2018–2022*	Jason Fulsom
1958–59	R.W. Bolstad	*1981–82*	Jack Bernstein	*2023–2026*	Greg Mason
1960–62	Frank H. Fisher	*1983*	Ted Hulse	*2026*	Danish Vahidy
1963–65	Dan Krendel	*1984–85*	Dudley Dumond		

PIONEER AWARDS DINNER – PLANNING AND PRODUCTION

Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and production of this event including committee members:

Margaret Burnside, Sara Fleming, Jennifer Kolber, Gurbani Marwah, Silvia Murday, Darren Stokes and Danish Vahidy.

Thank you to **Michael Blonde** and **Wallace Seto** for their creative and production work. And thank you to Extreme Reach's **Jeff Cole, Vanessa John, Patricio Munoz** and **Silvia Murday** for video production of the evening events.

Thank you to all the companies that support this event by placing ads in this Tribute Journal.

Canadian Picture Pioneers HONOUR ROLL

1950 First Canadian Picture Pioneers Dinner Banquet, honouring Pioneer Simon Meretsky

1952 **First Canadian Picture Pioneers Pioneer of the Year Dinner celebrating 50 Years of Theatre Exhibition across Canada**
Honours presented to Jule Allen, George Ganetakos, A.J. Mason, Ernest Ouimet, John Schuberg, F.G. Spencer

	PIONEER OF THE YEAR	SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS
1953	John J. Fitzgibbons C.B.E.	Lt. Col John A. Cooper, Ray Lewis, Bernard E. Norrish
1954	Jack Arthur O.B.E.	William McLaughlin, Charles Stephenson
1955	Louis Rosenfeld	Hy Bossin
1956	Oscar Hanson	James A. Whitebone, Winnipeg Branch
1957	William Summerville Sr.	Kenneth Leach, Vancouver Branch
1958	N.A. (Nat) Taylor	A.J. Laurie, William Singleton, Walter Wilson, J. Howard Boothe, Charles Krupp
1959	Haskell Masters	Frank Gow, W.O.(Bill) Kelly, Joshua Lieberman, P.W. Mahon, Harold Pfaff
1960	Morris Stein	Reg Doddridge, Tom Cleary, Clare Appel, Steve Rolston
1961	Reuben W. Bolstad	Bert Cooper, William Redpath, Robert Hurwitz, J.F. (Jimmy) Davie, Izzy H. Allen
1962	William Lester	Roy Tash, Bill Stewart, Hugh Sedgwick
1963	Frank Fisher	Ken Beach, J.M. Rice, William Reeves
1964	Robert D. Hurwitz & Harry W. Hurwitz	O.J. Silverthorne, Tom Daley
1965	Herbert Allen	Charles Dentelbeck, F. Gordon Spencer, Fred Varlow
1966	Dan Krendel	Art Bahen, Maynard Joiner, David Rothstein, A.L. (Pat) Travers
1967	Harold Pfaff	*First 50 year Scrolls awarded to over 100 Pioneer members*
1968	Harvey Harnick	Harry Irving Howard, James Nairn, May Chinn, Hy Swartz
1969	Leonard Bishop	Walter DuPerrier, Nat Gordon, Abe Levy, Zeke Sheine
1970	David Rothstein	Jack Fitzgibbons, Ferg Martin, Ivan Ackery
1971	Myer Axler	Owen Bird, Lionel Lester, Phil Maurice, Andy Rouse
1972	Zeke Sheine	Bert Brown, Florence Long, Hector Ross, Sam Swartz
1973	David Ongley Q.C.	Gerry Dillon, John Ferguson, Curly Posen, Sydney S. Newman
1974	O.J. Silverthorne	Lloyd Pearson, Murray Lynch, Gerald Sutherland, (WOMPI) Women of the Motion Picture Industry
1975	Leonard Bernstein	Morris Appleby, Jack Armstrong-Taylor, Robert Myers, Larry Strick
1976	Lionel Lester	Romeo Goudreau, Dawson Exley, Barry Myers, Bill Devitt
1977	Hector Ross	Les Sprague, Frank Marshall, Martin Simpson, Harry Blumsom
1978	N.A. (Nat) Taylor	Ross Campbell, Blain Covert
1979	Gerry Dillon	Doug Gow, Harold Joyal, Fred Leavens, Bert Wiber
1980	George Destounis	Don Watts, John Bernard, Greig Jones
1981	Barry Myers	Orval Fruitman, Herb Mathers, Mark Kramer, Fred Levitt
1982	Robert Myers	Dudley Dumond, Al Youngson, Syd Sniderman, Cecil Johnston
1983	Jack Bernstein	Barry Carnon, Mort Prevost, Allan Laubenstein, Violet Hosford
1984	Don Watts	Hilliard Gunn, George Heiber, Genny LeBlanc, Irving Stern
1985	Chris Salmon	Ted Hulse, A.W. Shackleford, Nathan (Nadie) Wolk, Cedric Woodbury
1986	Morris Appleby	Herb Black, Doug Isman, Olive MacDonald, Bud Prygrocki
1987	Doug Gow	Jack Gow, Graydon Hulse, Ruth Melman, Michael Taylor
1988	Barry Carnon	Betty Bellamy, Jack Franko, Jim Fustey, Dan Jardine
1989	A.L. (Pat) Travers	Don McKelvie, Doug Pinder, David Wolk
1990	Dudley Dumond	Dan McLeod, Pat McIntyre, Paul Wroe
1991	Ron Emilio	Lou Barr, Phil Carlton, Roly Rickard, Bryan Rudston-Brown
1992	Ted Hulse	Joan Brown, Gail Shiffman, Ron Tiboni
1993	Robert Stinson	Gordon Purnell, Cathy Watson
1994	Herb Mathers	Brian Rogers, Richard Lothian, Bob Shackleford, Ellie Munro
1995	Michael Taylor	Hank Heck, Denise James, Gary D. Martin
1996	Doug Pinder	No ancillary awards presented
1997	Paul Wroe	Dene Joyal, Bob MacDonald
1998	Philip R. Carlton	Karen Davis, Bob Scott
1999	Orval Fruitman	Ted Bielby, Brian Stewart, Sandy Stewart
2000	John Bailey	Ray Mainland, Ian Shaw, Al Whittle. Tom Fermanian
2001	Doug Isman	Marie Formosa, John Freeborn, Michael Goldberg
2002	Cathy Watson	Colin Davis, Bruce Elves, Phil May, Ken Williamson
2003	Sandra Stewart	Harriet Bernstein, Michael Kennedy, Greg MacNeil, John Pedersen
2004	Allen Karp	Neil Campbell, Jennifer Hofley, Dean Leland, Clinton Young
2005	Karen Davis	Dianne Schwalm, Robert Wales, John Xinos
2006	Brian Stewart	Kelley Bowman, Barry Chapman, Denis Hurtubise, Isabella Middleton-Howe
2007	Michael Kennedy	Adina Lebo, Kevin Norman, Raffaele Papalia, Danish Vahidy
2008	Eugene Amodeo	Margaret Burnside, Pierre Gauthier, Dan McGrath, Michael Mosca
2009	Denise James	Stan Ford, Greg Mason, Darren Stokes
2010	Stuart Fraser	Guy Gagnon, Karen Burke-Keniston, Leonard Schein
2011	Michael Goldberg	Adam Noble, Darlene Ullman, Jason Wright, Donna Grant
2012	Neil Campbell	Jason de Courcy, Ron Flynn, Sarah Necoloff, Susan Smythe-Bishop
2013	Robert Wales	Louise Campbell, Darlene Elson, Ernie MacDonald, Frank Kettner
2014	Phil May	Carol Burgoyne, Tony Cianciotta, Vincenzo Guzzo, Shaun McAlpine, Joe Peixoto
2015	Ian Shaw	Brian Chu, Anthony Macina, Dale Reimer, Shellie Goldberg
2016	Karen Burke-Keniston	Mario Fortin, John Narvali, Don Popow
2017	John Pedersen	Jason Fulsom, Karen Hansen, Michael Stewart, Barry Newstead
2018	Clinton Young	Heather Briant, Frank Carey, Loredana Lombardo, Pat Marshall
2019	Michael Mosca	Nuria Bronfman, Andy Faux, Janice Luke, Ted Bielby
2020-21		No awards presented
2022	John Freeborn	Michael Brooker, Kevin Eagle, Sandy Power, Daniel Séguin
2023	Jason Fulsom	Kylie Bechberger, Carrie Wolfe
2024	Louise Campbell	Joanna Miles, Ginette Schneider, Kevin Watts
2025	Raffaele Papalia	Brooks LeBoeuf, Gurbani Marwah, Sarah Timlick

2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

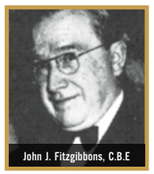
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CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

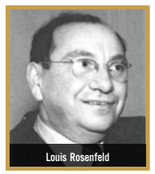


SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Andrew AUSTIN Sara FLEMING Silvia MURDAY

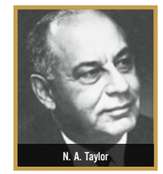

John J. Fitzgibbons, C.B.E
1953


Jack Arthur, O.B.E.
1954

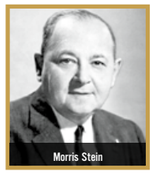

Louis Rosenfeld
1955

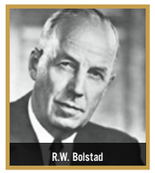

Oscar Hanson
1956

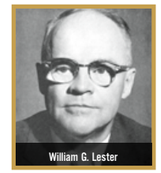

William Summerville Sr.
1957

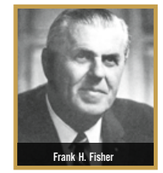

N. A. Taylor
1958


Haskell Masters
1959

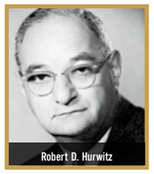

Morris Stein
1960

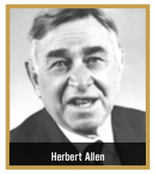

R.W. Bolstad
1961


William G. Lester
1962


Frank H. Fisher
1963


Harry W. Hurwitz
1964


Robert D. Hurwitz
1964

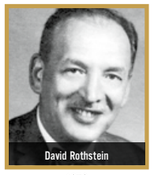

Herbert Allen
1965

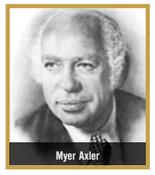

Dan Krendel
1966

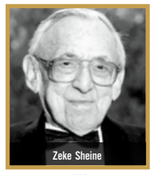

Harold Pfaff
1967

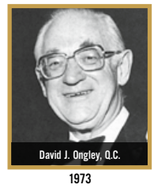

Harvey Harnick
1968


Len Bishop
1969

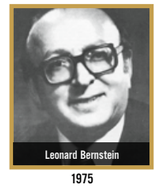

David Rothstein
1970

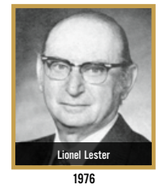

Myer Axler
1971

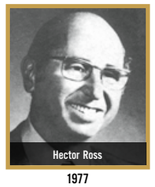

Zeke Sheine
1972

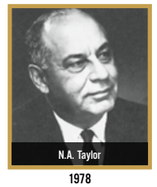

David J. Ongley, Q.C.
1973


O.J. Silverthorne
1974

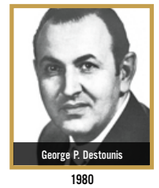

Leonard Bernstein
1975

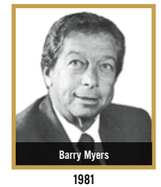

Lionel Lester
1976

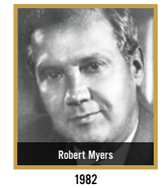

Hector Ross
1977


N.A. Taylor
1978


Gerald Dillon
1979


George P. Destounis
1980

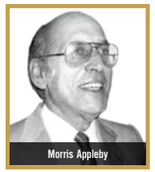

Barry Myers
1981


Robert Myers
1982


Jack Bernstein
1983


Don Watts
1984

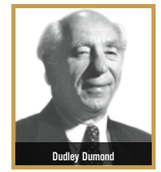

Chris Salmon
1985


Morris Appleby
1986


Doug Gow
1987


Barry Carnon
1988


A.L. "Pat" Travers
1989


Dudley Dumond
1990

Ron Emilio
1991

Ted Hulse
1992

Robert Stinson
1993

Herb Mathers
1994

Michael Taylor
1995

Doug Pinder
1996

Paul Wroe
1997

Philip R. Carlton
1998

Orval Fruitman
1999

John Bailey
2000

Doug Isman
2001

Cathy Watson
2002

Sandra I. Stewart
2003

Allen Karp
2004

Karen Davis
2005

Brian Stewart
2006

Michael Kennedy
2007

Eugene Amodeo
2008

Denise James
2009

Stuart Fraser
2010

Michael Goldberg
2011

Neil Campbell
2012

Robert Wales
2013

Phil May
2014

Ian Shaw
2015

Karen Burke-Keniston
2016

John Pedersen
2017

Clinton Young
2018

Michael Mosca
2019

John Freeborn
2022

Jason Fulsom
2023

Louise Campbell
2024

Raffaele Papalia
2025

2020 AND 2021 AWARDS NOT PRESENTED

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ELLIS JACOB

2026 Canadian Picture Pioneers
Pioneer of the Year

And proudly salutes

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SARA FLEMING
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT
TO BRINGING AUDIENCES TOGETHER.

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Andrew Austin
Vice-President, Studio Relations at Deluxe Canada

Sara Fleming
Advertising Account Manager at the Globe & Mail Media Group

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ELLIS JACOB

2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

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2026 Pioneer of the Year
Ellis Jacob

2026 Silver Spotlight Award
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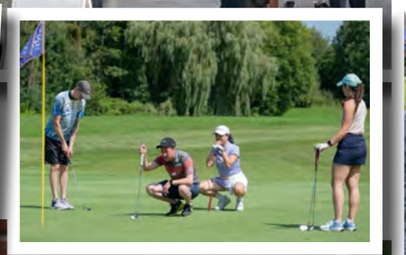
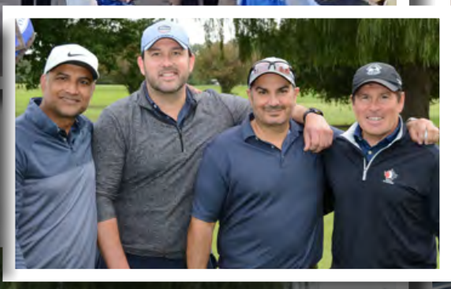
2026 PIONEER GOLF TOURNAMENT & BARBECUE















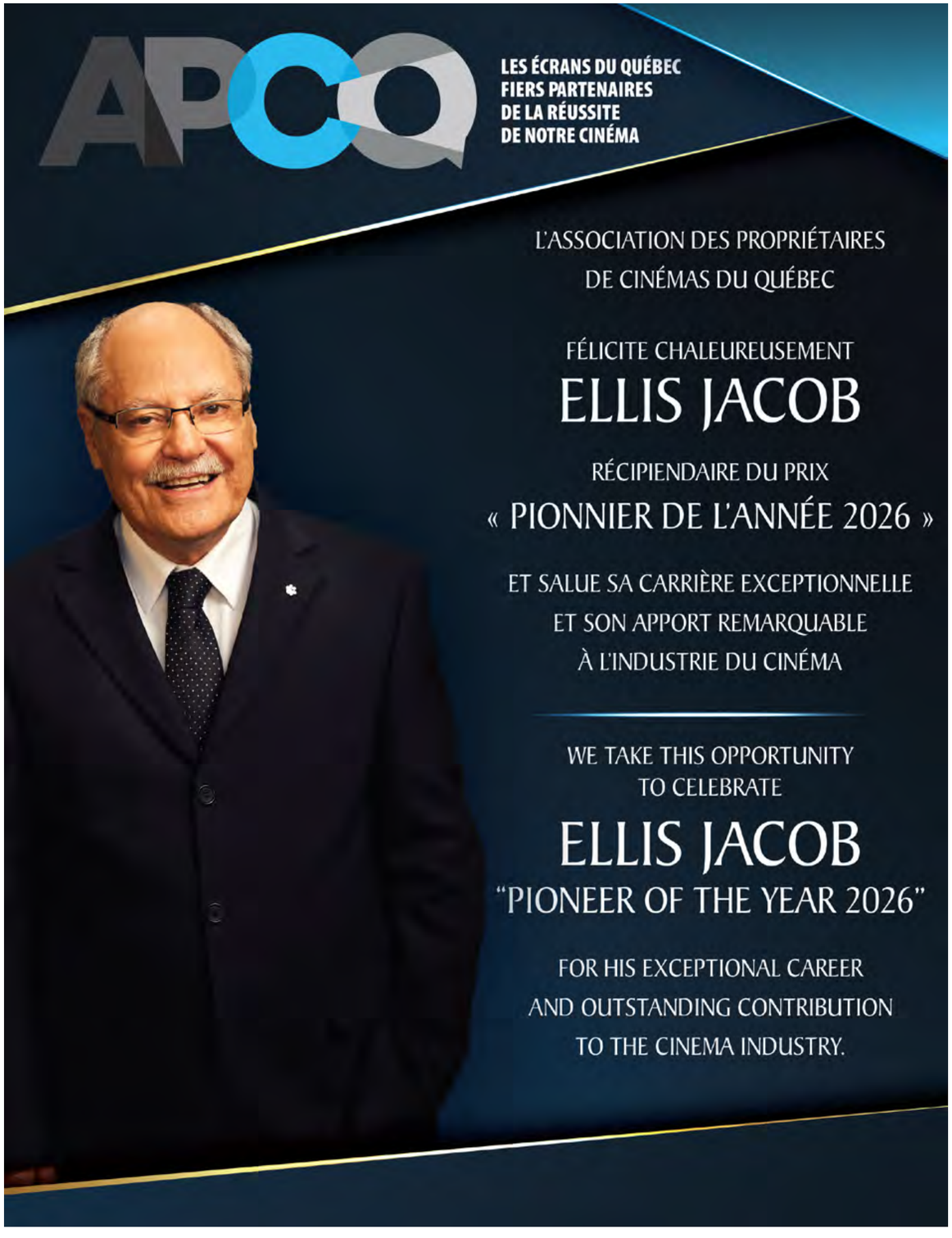












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ELLIS JACOB
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« PIONNIER DE L'ANNÉE 2026 »
ET SALUE SA CARRIÈRE EXCEPTIONNELLE
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À L'INDUSTRIE DU CINÉMA
WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO CELEBRATE
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"PIONEER OF THE YEAR 2026"
FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL CAREER
AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE CINEMA INDUSTRY.


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Silver Spotlight
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2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

ELLIS JACOB

AND THE

SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANDREW AUSTIN
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LES CINÉMAS CINÉ ENTREPRISE CONGRATULATES

ELLIS JACOB

AND THE SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNERS

You have been a remarkable promoter, ambassador, and defender of Canadian film exhibition throughout your distinguished career. You are truly a legend of our industry, and your contribution will be remembered alongside the great names who helped shape the world of cinema.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your mentorship, your leadership, and, most importantly, for giving me the opportunity to be part of the Cineplex family. It has been a privilege to know you, to learn from you, and to share in this wonderful industry with you.

Wishing you a well-deserved retirement and every happiness in this next chapter.

With my deepest respect and appreciation,

– *Raffaele Papalia*



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LES CINÉMAS CINÉ ENTREPRISE CONGRATULATES

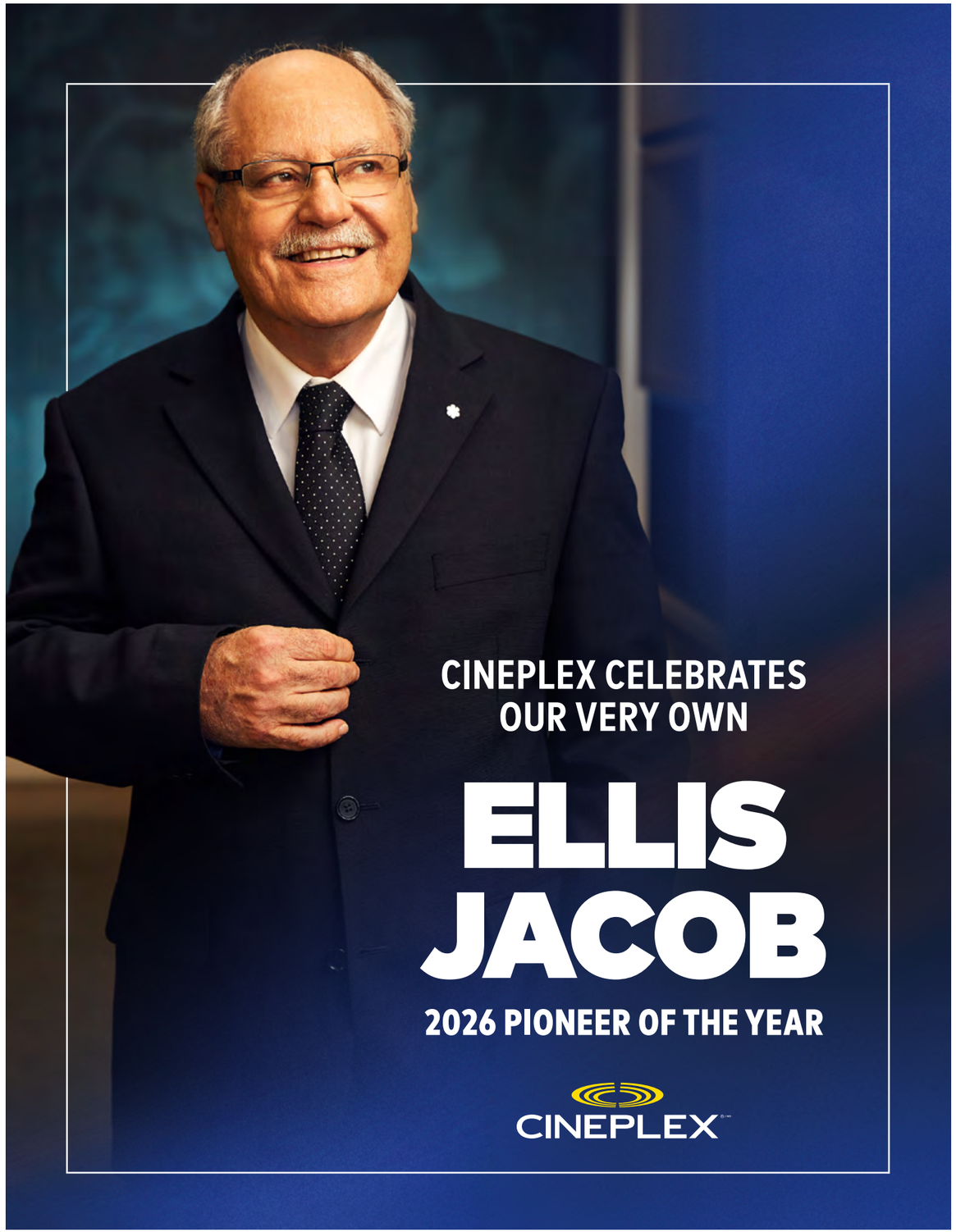
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2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

Ellis JACOB

Long before he ran Canada's largest movie theatre company, Ellis Jacob was a boy in Kolkata, India, who couldn't get enough of the big screen. Born in 1953 to Raymond and Tryphosa Jacob, he grew up in a home without a television, which made a night at the movies the family's greatest treat. On sweltering afternoons, theatres filled with people who had mostly paid for the air conditioning and a nap, while Ellis sat wide awake through every frame, Lawrence of Arabia one week and a Bollywood hit the next.

At 15 he came to Canada for his sister's wedding and persuaded his parents to let him stay. He studied in Montreal, becoming a chartered accountant and moved to Toronto in 1976 where he completed his Masters of Business. He worked in the Automotive and Technology business where he met his first mentor, Gerry Kishner. In 1987, he brought him into the movie business at Cineplex Odeon, where he rose to Chief Operating Officer. When Kishner later moved on and invited Ellis to follow, he chose to stay. "I was tired of being the bridesmaid," he explained, "I wanted to be the bride."

His chance to lead came in an unexpected way. The 1998 Loews merger left him without a job, with two little girls at home and a non-compete keeping him out of theatres, so he set out to build a company of his own. It was during a Pioneer golf tournament where he met another golfer Norman Peter Stern and eventually bought his company with him as partner and a number of great investors like Gerry Schwartz, Robert Lantos and Michael MacMillan. In 1999 he launched Galaxy Entertainment with Steve Brown to bring modern multiplexes to towns like Sault Ste. Marie and Prince Albert. Despite warnings from friends that small town guests would not show up, Galaxy grew steadily in communities across Canada, and in 2003 with the help of Gerry Schwartz and Onex took back Cineplex and went public as Cineplex Galaxy.

In 2005 he led the $500-million acquisition of Famous Players, uniting Canada's two largest theatre companies and then set about reimagining what a night at the movies could be. Under his leadership, Cineplex launched Scene+ in partnership with Scotiabank, which grew into one of the country's largest loyalty programs. Cineplex also expanded the theatrical experience introducing VIP auditoriums and the company's own UltraAVX format. He pushed Cineplex well beyond the box office launching The Rec Room and Playdium location-based entertainment venues bringing gaming, attractions and live events to communities across the country.

Along the way he became a Member of the Order of Canada and the first Canadian to chair the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), leading its executive board from 2018–2021. In 2022, Ellis received the NATO MarqueeAward for his steady and insightful leadership as the industry navigated the pandemic. This spring, he was named the second-ever Legend of Cinema, Cinema United's highest honour. As a steadfast supporter of innovation and excellence in Canada's entertainment industry, Ellis has made substantial contributions to the Canadian Picture Pioneers, including Cineplex's continued support of the CPP Student Assistance Program.

Some of his most personal work happened closer to home. In 2013 he opened the Jacob Family Theatre at Baycrest in memory of his mother, who had lived there and went to the movies nearly every week for years. The 170-seat theatre was designed so that residents, including those in wheelchairs, could enjoy a proper visit to the movies. Ellis persuaded the studios to donate 700 films to keep the screen full of content.

For all the theatres he has filled, the full house Ellis treasures the most is his own. His wife Sharyn has been his partner through every chapter, and together they have two daughters, Lauren and Resa, and sons-in-law Michael and Houston and five grandchildren.

Ellis remains confident that strong cinema days are ahead. He has built that conviction into every Cineplex theatre and passed it on to thousands of people who welcome audiences through their doors each day. ■



Ellis JACOB

PIONNIER DE L'ANNÉE 2026

Bien avant de diriger la plus grande chaîne de cinémas au Canada, Ellis Jacob était un jeune garçon qui, déjà, ne se lassait pas du grand écran. Né en 1953, le fils de Raymond et Tryphosa Jacob grandit à Calcutta dans une maisonnée sans téléviseur, ce qui fait de chaque sortie au cinéma une véritable joie pour la famille. Quand la chaleur de l'après-midi s'abat sur la ville, les cinémas sont assaillis par des personnes pour la plupart en quête d'un endroit frais où faire la sieste. Le jeune Ellis, lui, ne manque pas un instant de la magie se déroulant sous ses yeux, qu'on diffuse le classique Lawrence d'Arabie ou le dernier succès bollywoodien.

À 15 ans, venu au Canada pour assister au mariage de sa sœur, il réussit à convaincre ses parents de le laisser rester au pays. Il étudie à Montréal, devient comptable agréé, puis s'installe à Toronto en 1976 pour faire une maîtrise en affaires. Il travaille ensuite dans le secteur des technologies automobiles et y rencontre son premier mentor, Gerry Kishner. En 1987, ce dernier le fait entrer à Cineplex Odeon, où Ellis gravit les échelons jusqu'à devenir directeur de l'exploitation. Quand Kishner décide de prendre une nouvelle direction professionnelle, il invite son protégé à le suivre, mais ce dernier choisit de rester. « J'en avais assez de jouer les seconds rôles. Je voulais être la tête d'affiche », explique-t-il.

C'est pourtant par un curieux coup du sort qu'il en vient à diriger, comme il le souhaite. En 1998, dans la foulée de la fusion avec Loews, il se retrouve sans emploi. Ayant signé une entente de non-concurrence qui lui interdit de travailler pour un autre exploitant de salles de cinéma, ce père de deux jeunes filles décide de fonder sa propre entreprise. Lors d'un tournoi de golf organisé par Canadian Picture Pioneers, il rencontre Norman Peter Stern, un homme d'affaires dont il achètera l'entreprise tout en l'invitant à y rester en tant que partenaire, aux côtés d'autres excellents investisseurs comme Gerry Schwartz, Robert Lantos et Michael MacMillan. En 1999, il lance Galaxy Entertainment avec Steve Brown dans le but d'implanter des complexes cinématographiques modernes dans des villes comme Sault Ste. Marie et Prince Albert. Ses amis le mettent en garde : les gens des petites villes ne se rueront pas au cinéma. Pourtant, Galaxy connaît une croissance constante un peu partout au Canada. En 2003, avec l'aide de Gerry Schwartz et de l'entreprise Onex, Ellis reprend le contrôle de Cineplex et fait son entrée en bourse avec Cineplex Galaxy.

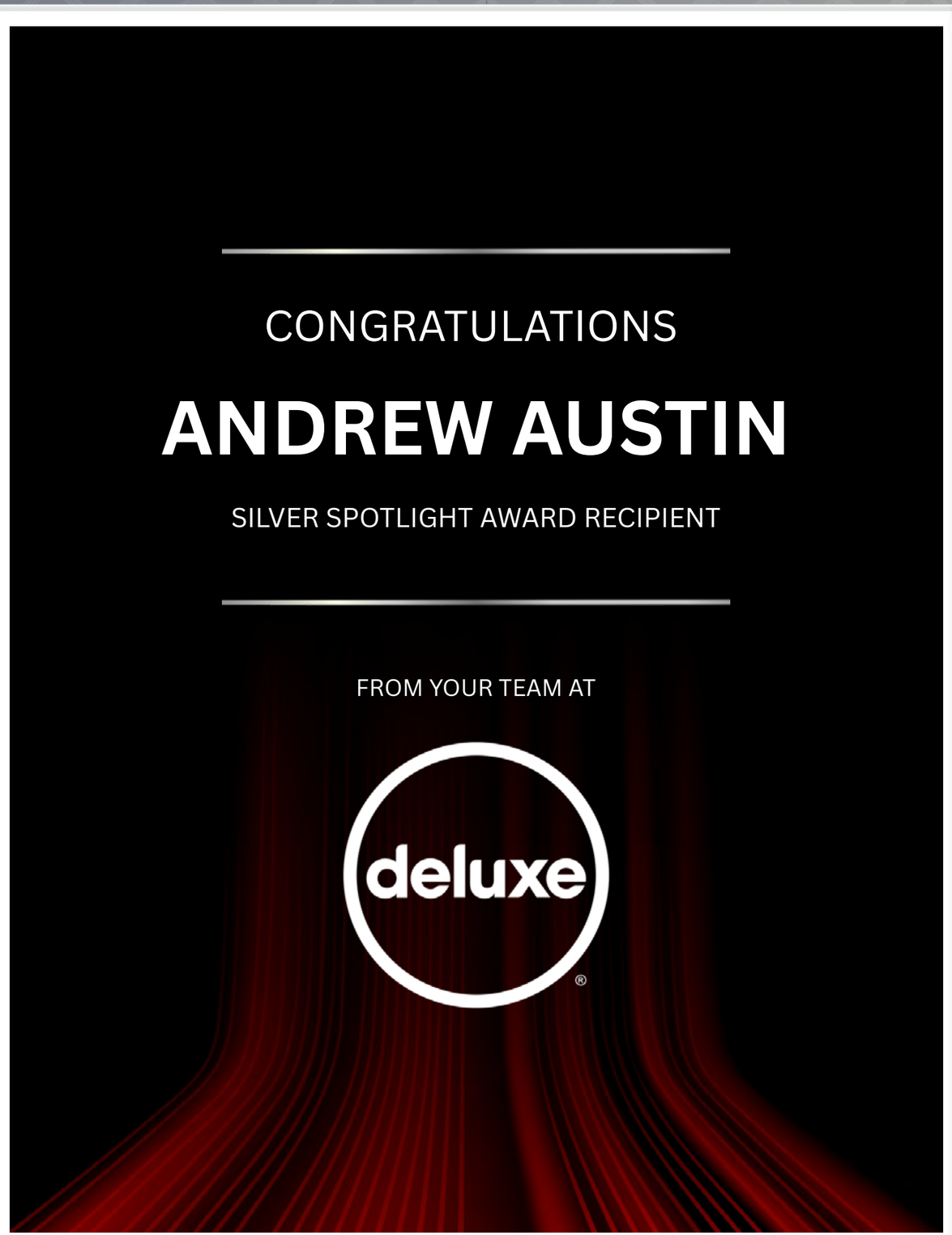
En 2005, il pilote l'acquisition de Famous Players, une transaction de 500 millions de dollars qui scelle la fusion des deux plus grands exploitants canadiens de salles de cinéma, puis s'emploie alors à réimaginer l'expérience cinématographique. Sous son leadership et en partenariat avec la Banque Scotia, Cineplex lance Scène+, un programme de fidélité qui deviendra l'un des plus vastes au pays. Cineplex enrichit aussi l'expérience cinématographique en créant les salles VIP ainsi qu'UltraAVX, un format exclusif. L'offre va bientôt au-delà des salles de cinéma : The Rec Room et Playdium voient le jour, proposant des jeux, des attractions et des événements en direct un peu partout au pays.

Le parcours d'Ellis lui vaut en chemin le titre de Membre de l'Ordre du Canada. Il devient également le tout premier Canadien à présider la National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), dont il pilote le conseil de direction de 2018 à 2021. En 2022, il reçoit le prix Marquee Award de la NATO en reconnaissance de son leadership assuré et éclairé pendant la pandémie. Au printemps 2026, il devient la deuxième personne à recevoir le prix Legend of Cinema, la plus haute distinction décernée par Cinema United. Ardent défenseur de l'innovation et de l'excellence dans l'industrie du divertissement au Canada, il a contribué de manière importante à Canadian Picture Pioneers, qui lui doit notamment le soutien continu qu'offre Cineplex au Student Assistance Program.

Certaines de ses réalisations ont une couleur plus personnelle. En 2013, il ouvre à la mémoire de sa mère le Jacob Family Theatre au sein du centre Baycrest, où cette dernière a vécu. Grande cinéphile, elle avait fréquenté les salles de cinéma presque chaque semaine pendant des années. Pouvant accueillir 170 personnes, le Jacob Family Theatre est conçu pour offrir aux résidentes et résidents, y compris aux personnes en fauteuil roulant, une véritable expérience cinématographique. Ellis convaincra également les studios de faire don de 700 films pour alimenter la programmation de la salle.

Cet homme a beau avoir fait salle comble encore et encore, rien ne le comble autant qu'être en présence de la famille qu'il a bâtie avec son épouse Sharyn, sa partenaire de tous les instants. Ils sont entourés de deux filles, Lauren et Resa, deux gendres, Michael et Houston, et cinq petits-enfants.

Ellis croit fermement que le milieu du cinéma a de beaux jours devant lui. Cette conviction, il l'a cultivée au sein de chaque cinéma Cineplex et l'a insufflée aux milliers de membres du personnel qui accueillent les cinéphiles chaque jour. ■



2026 SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENT

Andrew AUSTIN



In the spring of next year, I will celebrate 40 years in the Canadian film industry. Pretty much all that time in distribution and most of that, in independent distribution. I realized quite early in my career that that is where I belonged. There was an energy I felt from always being an underdog. Where the small decisions that arose daily seemed to have monumental consequences. The release date, strategy and P&A all had to be perfect to compete with the bigger and more well-known films. Then there were the ancillary markets. A whole new set of skills was required for television and home entertainment.

I've been fortunate to develop relationships with people both in Canada and around the globe. Many of whom became lifelong friends. Our current boss Cyril was one of the first people I met when I started at Cineplex Odeon Films back in 1987. I can remember my first Picture Pioneer Picnic that year. I loaded the company van with co-workers and off we drove to Rolling Hills Golf Club. Everyone sitting on the floor. No seatbelts. The picnic continues to be one of my favourite events of the year.

I remember TIFF 2001. At Seville Pictures we were presenting our usual slate of 25+ movies. Mostly arty. We were bringing in an Albanian filmmaker for the world premiere of his film. He had never left Albania before and didn't speak a word of English. On route, his plane was grounded in Gander Newfoundland. He missed his world premiere, and I remember thinking "this poor man is going to be so unhappy when he finally arrives." He arrived, just in time for the second screening. He wasn't unhappy at all. He was elated. Absolutely beaming. He related to me (through an interpreter) how well he had been treated by the people of Gander and how much joy and fun he experienced. I remember the pride I felt when I heard this. He was one of the "Come From Away" folks… literally.

"THE THING I'M MOST GRATEFUL FOR ARE THE FRIENDSHIPS"

When I look back at the nearly 40 years… all the wonderful experiences and places, the millions upon millions of laughs, the thing I'm most grateful for are the friendships I have been lucky enough to create and maintain. There are far too many people to thank and recognize and not near enough ink. Please accept my sincere thanks. I am grateful to you all. To those that thought I should be considered for this tribute… I'm honoured. Special thanks to Karynn and Jake. You're the best. ■



2026 SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENT

Sara FLEMING



Movies have been a significant part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up in Toronto, some of my fondest memories were made at the movie theatre. The first film I watched on the big screen was Indiana Jones, Raiders of the Lost Ark when I was four years old, such a classic and all thanks to my brother Ian who is seven years older. My seventh birthday was celebrated at my favourite childhood spot, the Cedarbrae Famous Players Cinemas watching E.T. During high school, my best friend Dina and I regularly went to the Uptown Cineplex Odeon Theatre on weekends. We were completely obsessed with Terminator 2, seeing it four times. I would like to think it inspired our determination and significantly improved our chin-up game.

I joined The Globe and Mail as a summer student before my final year of university, beginning what has become an incredible career that I genuinely love and for which I am deeply grateful. Early on, I worked as a coordinator for Sharon Bower, who represented the film business for more than 35 years. To me, Sharon had the most exciting job imaginable. She attended movie premieres, TIFF events, and Show-Canada. I was fortunate enough to be her plus-one at many film premieres and Canadian Picture Pioneers events over the years.

When Sharon retired, I was thrilled to step into what I considered my dream territory, working directly with distributors, exhibitors, and their agency partners on their media strategies. It has been a privilege to learn about this dynamic industry, collaborate with so many talented people, and build lasting friendships along the way.

Around that same time, I became a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and began participating in its many events. Through that involvement, I gained a deeper appreciation for the organization's remarkable work supporting members of the industry during times of need.

In 2021, I joined the Canadian Picture Pioneers Board of Directors. This experience has been both meaningful and rewarding. Working alongside such a dedicated group of board members, helping raise awareness of the organization's mission, and supporting fundraising efforts that directly impact on the lives of industry colleagues has been a true privilege.

I am incredibly grateful to the Canadian Picture Pioneers, my colleagues, clients, friends, and family for their support throughout my career. To be recognized by an industry that has given so much to so many people is an honour that I will cherish for years to come. ■



Silver Spotlight Sponsor

2026 SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENT

Silvia MURDAY



Born in the magical year of Star Wars (a long, long time ago…), I grew up in the '80s and '90s, which, in my completely unbiased opinion, was a spectacular time to fall in love with movies. Indiana Jones, Back to the Future, Star Wars (of course), The Goonies, Jurassic Park, Die Hard, Titanic, The Mummy—I could go on. And then there was the Disney Renaissance: The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, The Lion King, Hercules, Mulan and so many more. Movies weren't just something I watched; they were a huge part of growing up.

I loved movies so much that watching them eventually became the unlikely beginning of my career.

My journey started at Blockbuster in 1993, where I was surrounded by movies and could talk about them, recommend them and, naturally, watch them. By 1996, I was working at Cineplex Fairview while attending film school at Ryerson, getting my first real glimpse into the business behind the movies I loved. I watched pretty much everything I could—except horror. Some things cannot be unseen.

In 1999, I was part of the opening team at Famous Players Coliseum Scarborough. And even though I was working there, I still stood in line for 18 hours to be among the first to see Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace. Priorities.

In 2000, an internship at Paramount Pictures with Anne Davidson and Leigh Higgins gave me my first step into the studio publicity world. It was there that I was introduced to MIJO (now Extreme Reach), where my career really opened up. I had the opportunity to work with virtually every major studio and began to understand just how many people, relationships and moving parts were required to get content from a studio to an audience.

Working alongside Isabella Middleton, Clinton Young and Darren Stokes, I also began to understand what mentorship really looked like—and was introduced to the Canadian Picture Pioneers.

At first, the Pioneers was a networking opportunity… along with getting some pretty cool movie swag. But as I attended events and learned more about the work CPP does, I realized it was about so much more than celebrating the film business.

It's about community. Giving back. And taking care of the people who have spent their careers building our industry.

The more I learned, the more I wanted to be involved, and eventually I had the privilege of joining the Board.

Being part of CPP has given me the opportunity to give back to an industry that has given me so much. It has reminded me that behind every career are people who opened a door, offered advice, took a chance or simply believed in you.

Receiving the Silver Spotlight Award is incredibly humbling. I don't see it as recognition of one person's career, but as a reflection of all the people who have been part of my journey.

I still love movies. I still love the magic of the big screen. And I'm incredibly grateful that a childhood obsession somehow turned into a career—and a community—that I wouldn't trade for anything. ■

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CONGRATULATES

Ellis Jacob

2026 Canadian Picture
Pioneer of the Year

And Spotlight Award recipients,
Andrew Austin, Sara Fleming and Silvia Murday

You are all exceptional people who help keep the
Canadian Movie Industry and the Canadian Motion Picture Pioneers
vibrant through your selfless support and contributions.
Thank you!

Ellis,
Through subtle gestures—some of which you may not even realize—you've helped me advance in my career. You've made an indelible mark on the industry, and we'll be forever grateful for all you've contributed.
Congratulations on this well-deserved honour.
Best Wishes,
Michael

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CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

Cheers to amazing industry leaders and partners.

PIONEER OF THE YEAR

ELLIS JACOB

CONGRATS ELLIS!
THANKS FOR THE PASSION YOU PUT INTO HEADING
UP CINEPLEX AND FOR MAKING A SPECIAL PLACE FOR
QUEBEC MOVIES AND APPRECIATING THE QUEBEC MARKET.

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2026 Pioneer of the Year

and the Silver Spotlight Award recipients

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SARA FLEMING
SILVIA MURDAY

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2026 Pioneer of the Year

Congratulations to the
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SARA FLEMING
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ANDREW AUSTIN
SARA FLEMING
SILVIA MURDAY

2025 PIONEER AWARDS DINNER























CONGRATULATIONS!

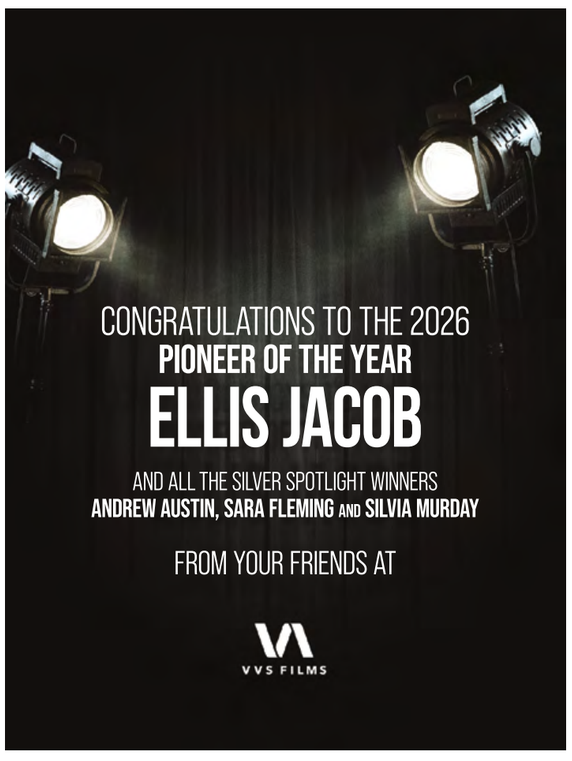
2026 Pioneer of the Year Ellis Jacob

Silver Spotlight Award recipients:
Andrew Austin, Sara Fleming, Silvia Murday











Bold vision moves culture forward.

Congratulations to **Ellis Jacob**,
2026 Pioneer of the Year, and Silver Spotlight honourees
Andrew Austin, **Sara Fleming** and **Silvia Murday**.

Allied Global Marketing







A TRUE PIONEER. AN INSPIRING LEADER.

Warmest congratulations to

Ellis Jacob

on receiving the

PIONEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Your visionary leadership and lifelong passion for cinema have helped shape our industry and inspired so many along the way.

We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved honour with you.

With warm regards and admiration, the entire team at MDI

mdi-innovations.com

OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOUREES!

PIONEERING WOMEN

2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

Ellis Jacob

SILVER SPOTLIGHT RECIPIENTS

Andrew Austin Sara Fleming Silvia Murday

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PIONEERING WOMEN

2026 PW SPEAKER SERIES:

CUE THE TEA













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We are thrilled to celebrate the 2026 Pioneer of the Year recipient:

ELLIS JACOB

and Silver Spotlight Award Recipients:

Andrew Austin | Sara Fleming | Silvia Murday

Congratulations to you all on your well-deserved recognition!



@ImagineCinemasCA

★ ★ ★

CONGRATULATIONS

Motion Picture Pioneer of the Year

Ellis Jacob

Former President & Chief Executive Officer

Cineplex

Spotlight Award Winners

Andrew Austin

Vice President, Studio Relations

Deluxe Canada

Sara Fleming

Advertising Account Manager

Globe & Mail Media Group

Silvia Murday

Vice President, Campaign & Creative Services

Extreme Reach

From your friends and admirers at Photon

PHOTON FILMS

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CONGRATULATES OUR FRIENDS

ELLIS JACOB

ANDREW AUSTIN

SARA FLEMING

SILVIA MURDAY

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Congratulations honourees!

We are proud to celebrate the pioneers who help our industry move forward!

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IS VERY PROUD TO HONOR

PIONEER OF THE YEAR

ELLIS JACOB

SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANDREW AUSTIN

SARA FLEMING

SILVIA MURDAY

2026 SHOUT OUTS

Well done, Ellis!!!

Now there are more mountains to climb.
Good luck on your next adventure.
Allen Karp

Congratulations

Ellis, Sara, Silvia and Andrew - Can't think of a better group to be honoured for all that you do for the CPP and the industry. Looking forward to raising a glass on your special night! Cheers, Melissa Pressacco

Ellis, A truly wonderful and well-deserved honour for an extraordinary career. Your impact on our industry has been remarkable, but I feel even luckier to know the amazing person behind it all. So proud to call you my friend. With love, Sandy xo

Well Done Ellis!

Thanks for your vision and passion, such an amazing contribution to our industry. Also great appreciation for bringing so many of us along for the ride.

KEVIN EAGLE

Congratulations Ellis! Thank you for steering us all these years & helping us bring the right films to the right audiences! We'll save you a seat at the movies! the Lineplex FilmTeam

CONGRATS
ELLIS, ANDREW & SILVIA!
PROUD TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU ALL!
Sara

BIG CONGRATULATIONS ELLIS!!

THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A GREAT MENTOR AND FRIEND! AND FOR ALL YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF THE CPP!
YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS, JASON F

ELLIS,
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE IMPACT YOU'VE HAD ON OUR INDUSTRY! YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHARITABLE GIVING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INSPIRATION, AND THE CPP HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY FORTUNATE TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR GENEROSITY. CONGRATS TO OUR 2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR!
GREG MASON

CONGRATS ELLIS!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
XX GURBANI



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SILVER SPOTLIGHT HONOUREES...

ANDREW AUSTIN, SARA FLEMING, AND SILVIA MURDAY!
INCREDIBLE PEOPLE AND INCREDIBLE FRIENDS!
ALL THE BEST, JASON F

ELLIS

Congratulations on this well-deserved honour, and thank you for your MANY contributions to the CPP over the years. You have been a true visionary for our film community and we have all benefitted from your creativity, leadership, and foresight.

Margaret

2026 Pioneer of the Year

Ellis, Congratulations on this long awaited and well-deserved honour. The Canadian industry and Pioneers are stronger because of your leadership. Wishing you all the best in your next chapter.
Bill

Silvia
Your daily hard work + dedication make this honour so well deserved.
We are so proud of you!
Jane, Emy, Liv

Congrats to the best PAPA in the 🌎

We are all so proud of you and love you so much! You have had the most incredible career while always being there for us whenever we need you. We are so excited for this next chapter of your life and we can't wait to spend even more time with you!!


DisneyWorld 2026

❤️ Sharsh, Lauren, Resa, Michael, Houston, Ty, Rory, Kyla, Drew and Brody

2026 SHOUT OUTS

TO MY TAU SARA,
CONGRATS! #CORETOUR
XX GURBANI

CONGRATS ANDREW!
FOREVER MARKING DIRECTOR
IN MY HEART!
XX GURBANI

SARA & SILVIA

You Ladies Rock and deserve every accolade you receive this evening! I've had the pleasure of working with you both professionally and as fellow members on the CPP Board so know just how much energy, creativity and excellence you bring to the table each and every day! It's wonderful to see you honoured!

2026 Silver Spotlight Recipients

Margaret

A well-deserved shout-out to Silvia Murday!

Silvia, you deserve to be celebrated not only for your unparalleled talent and fierce determination, but for your passion, dedication, and heart you pour.

Your ability to inspire others and leave a lasting impression is a testament to the remarkable person you are. Your talent sets you apart, but it is your authenticity, resilience, and commitment to excellence that make you exceptional.

You are so deserving of this recognition, and we couldn't be happier for you.

- Brizia Sequeira & Jimmy Hernandez -

Congratulations, Sara, on your well-deserved moment in the spotlight!

I'm so happy to see you celebrated and couldn't be prouder of you. Enjoy every moment. You have earned it!

Cheers to you,
Vanessa



Andrew, Congratulations on your award and submitting the coolest headshot in Pioneer history. Only a true Pioneer would exude the confidence to make that choice. Well done.
Bill

Congratulations, Silvia, on this well-deserved recognition!

Thank you for your leadership, your support, and the lasting impact you've had on our team. We're so proud of you and all you've accomplished!

With appreciation,
The Toronto Post Team

Silvia!



Huge cheers on taking home the Silver Spotlight Award! Working with you at XR over the years has been an absolute pleasure. Thank you for always having our backs and guiding us with such passion. Enjoy your well-deserved moment in the spotlight!



Best,
Patricio & Mike

TO OUR
Diamond of the Season,
AND FOREVER *Movie Queen!* ♡

Silvia, you've been a mentor, a pioneer, a visionary, and, above all, a dear friend.
For over 20 years, I've had the privilege of learning from you, growing alongside you, and watching you inspire countless others.

You've shown us that true leadership is about building community, leading with kindness, and inspiring us to find our passion and follow our dreams. And through it all, you've always had a way of finding the magic in everything you do.

May we all take a page from your book!

Congratulations on your Silver Spotlight Award!

With so much love and admiration,
Alejandra & Family ♡

Silvia,

Congrats on an extremely well deserved award and celebration of a remarkable friend.

Darren.

Sara, So thrilled to see you receive this very well-deserved honour. Your friendship, generosity and years of support for our industry and its community have touched so many. I'm so happy to celebrate this special moment with you. Congratulations, Sandy xo

Congratulations Silvia!

Your talent, dedication and above all your passion for whatever you do, make us incredibly proud of all your achievements and of the wonderful woman you have become!

Love Mom and Dad

SILVIA & SARA,

YOU TWO ARE OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBERS THAT ALWAYS PUT IN SO MUCH SWEAT EQUITY FOR THE CPP! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARDS! VERY WELL DESERVED!

GREG MASON

Silvia, What a wonderful and well-deserved honour! For so many years, you have given so much to our industry and, more importantly, to the people within it. Your warmth, friendship and generosity have made a lasting difference.
So proud and happy to celebrate you!
Sandy xo





Jonathan Agbesoyin
Cineplex



Osamudiame Aigbe
Cineplex



Prabujot Bagri
Cineplex



Poorna Karthikeya Balachandar
The Rec Room



Aidan Boyd
Cineplex



Ghielene Fetiza
Cineplex



Gaby Gee
Cineplex



Emma Gettinby
Cineplex



James Graham
Cineplex

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 RECIPENTS



Arjun Grewal
Cineplex



Keiran Hoang
Cineplex



Isabella Iannace
Westdale Cinema



Tristan Lévèque
Cineplex



Isabella Macdonald
Premiere Theatres



Hanna Mattie
Cineplex



Lena Nguyen
Cineplex



Natasha Ocran
Landmark Cinemas



Mona Osman
Imagine Cinemas



Caitlin Philip
Cineplex



Fatuma Rulinda
Cineplex



Marwa Samsoor
Cineplex



Mehar Sandhu
Cineplex



Ashkan Nosrat Sheibani
Cineplex



William Spears
Cineplex



Megan Stensrud
Cineplex

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR NEXT YEAR'S APPLICATION DEADLINE!

TYLITE DIGITAL

MOVIE SCOUT

FOCUS MEDIA

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THIS YEAR'S HONOUREES

PIONEER OF THE YEAR

ELLIS JACOB

SILVER SPOTLIGHT

ANDREW AUSTIN

SARA FLEMING

SILVIA MURDAY

HI DAD! ❤️ YOU!

WILL ROGERS
MOTION PICTURE PIONEERS FOUNDATION

THE WILL ROGERS MOTION PICTURE
PIONEERS FOUNDATION CONGRATULATES

2026 PIONEER OF THE YEAR

Ellis Jacob

AND SILVER SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Andrew Austin | Sara Fleming | Silvia Murday

"IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT'S JUST THIS SIMPLE:
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING. LOVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
AND BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING."

-WILL ROGERS

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS COMMUNITY!

Check out our websites and social platforms for information about our various programs and activities and how you can join us.

CanadianPicturePioneers.ca

/canadianpicturepioneers @canadianpicturepioneers

Canadian Picture Pioneers

PIONEERING WOMEN

/PioneeringWomenCanada @PioneeringWomenCA



CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS TRUST FUND

It was the year 'Gone with the Wind', 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington', 'Stagecoach' and 'Gunga Din' opened in theatres.

In 1939 a group of movie industry executives gathered to remember the passing of a friend. Jack Cohn, one of the founding partners of Columbia Pictures, was concerned that it only seemed to be funerals that brought industry friends together. Motivated by this thought, Cohn and a group of industry peers started the Picture Pioneers Inc., an organization to bring people in the industry together for fellowship and friends willing to help each other out in time of need. In the beginning membership was restricted to only those who had been in the industry for 25 years.

Many of the original Picture Pioneers members had help to start the major studios in Hollywood. In the first year over 200 other industry members joined, including some Canadians, among them pioneer theatre exhibitor Oscar Hanson and John Fitzgibbons, who later became President of Famous Players. These men brought together their friends Clair Hague and Ray Lewis to work on forming a Canadian equivalent and by the end of 1940 ratified a charter forming the Canadian Picture Pioneers. In the beginning years, it became obvious that the need for help would increase beyond what had been first contemplated, and that formal fundraising plans would have to be developed to meet such demands. An important first step in those plans would be to apply to the Canadian Income Tax Department to register what would become the Canadian Picture Pioneers Trust Fund as a qualified charity with the right to issue receipts for income tax purposes.

TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED 1947 TO 2026:
$4.6 million

It took until 1947, but this all came together with the trust document that we still operate under today stating that; "the Canadian Picture Pioneers Trust Fund shall be used and operated exclusively as a charitable fund and not for the benefit or private gain or profit of any persons, or of the Pioneers and shall be used solely for the relief of needy, poor or indigent persons generally throughout Canada and more particularly for the relief of any needy, poor or indigent persons who have been or are employed or were a part of the motion picture industry, or any affiliated industry."

From the beginning the Trustees struggled to build up a sustaining capital fund. Each year, little by little, with the generous support of Pioneer members and supporting companies the fund has grown, providing more assistance to those in need each year. However the Pioneers still need your assistance. Please remember to donate to the Picture Pioneers with regular annual contributions, in memory donations and planned giving through insurance and estate planning. Thank you. ■

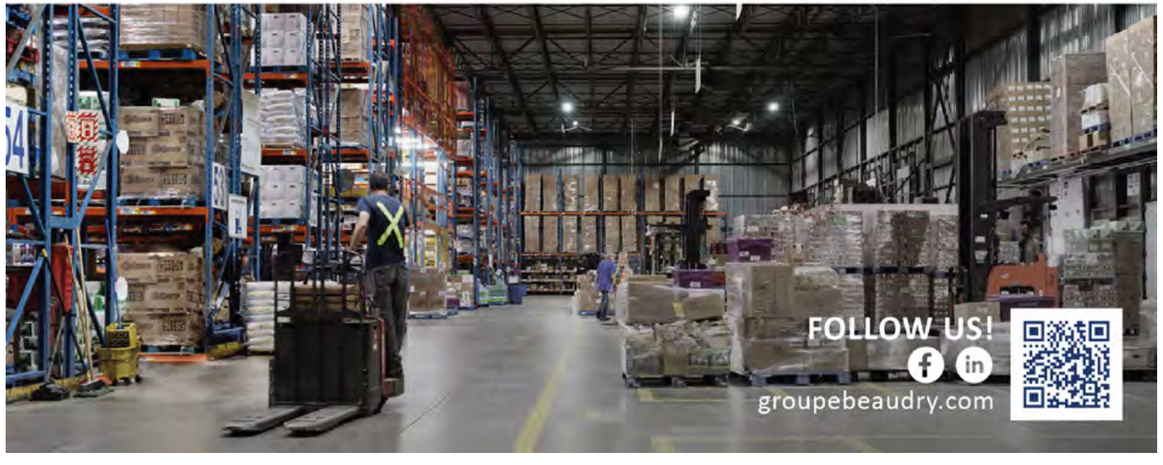
CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS TRUST FUND



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FOR OVER 100 YEARS





A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Your ongoing support and contributions have made a huge difference! The Canadian Picture Pioneers Student Assistance Awards Program has awarded *over $1.35 million in the past 23 years...* changing the lives of 418 young people associated with our industry.

Movies are magic and the film industry is full of ambitious, intelligent and creative young people. If you would like to support the Pioneers' future please consider the SAAP.

CanadianPicturePioneers.ca

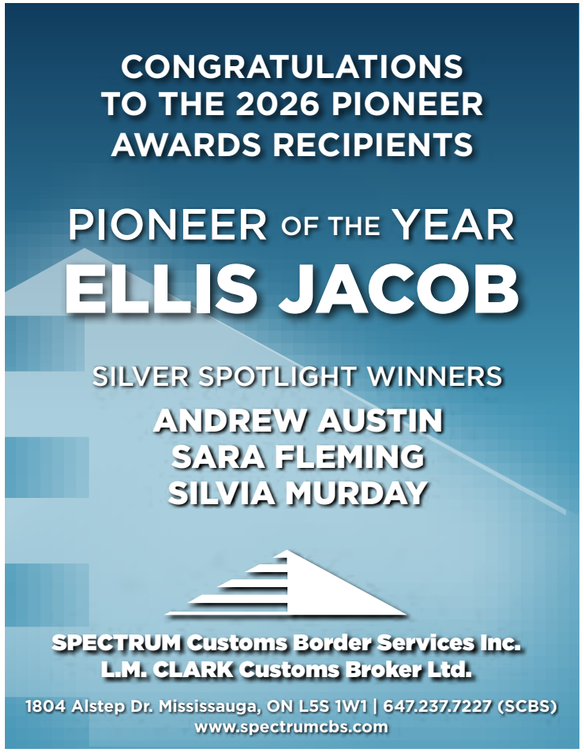

CINEMA CELLAR
CONGRATULATES
Ellis Jacob
And fellow honourees
Andrew Austin | Sara Fleming | Silvia Murday
Thank you for your extraordinary contributions to the Canadian motion picture industry and for the passion, leadership, and innovation that continue to shape the future of cinema.
Congratulations from your friends at Cinema Cellar.
cinemacellar.com
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CONGRATULATIONS
to tonight's honourees.
2026 Pioneer of the Year
Ellis Jacob
2026 Silver Spotlight Award
Andrew Austin
Sara Fleming
Silvia Murday
In an increasingly artificial world, we are bringing experience back to life.
YBIMC.COM


SUPPORT FOR YOUR EDUCATION STARTS HERE!
2027 PROGRAM LAUNCHES THIS SUMMER!
CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS
STUDENT ASSISTANCE AWARDS
The Canadian Picture Pioneers Student Assistance Awards Program offers 25 bursaries of $6,000 to support people working in cinema and related fields as they pursue their education.
If you or a member of your team is 30 or younger and enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program, you may be eligible.
Visit our website for updates!


Congratulations
To Our Incredible
★ PIONEER OF THE YEAR ★
ELLIS JACOB
and a huge shout out to this years
Silver Spotlight
recipients
Andrew Austin, Sara Fleming and Silvia Murday
From your friends at
Lights! Camera! Success!
WBS
Watson Booking Services


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 PIONEER AWARDS RECIPIENTS
PIONEER OF THE YEAR
ELLIS JACOB
SILVER SPOTLIGHT WINNERS
ANDREW AUSTIN
SARA FLEMING
SILVIA MURDAY
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IN MEMORIAM



Flo Boulet
1940 – 2026

Flo began his industry career in 1957, travelling from Dunrea, Manitoba to Winnipeg to work at the Rialto Theatre. Within a year, he joined United Artists as a film inspector and shipper.

In the early 1960s, Flo moved to Universal as a film shipper. When Victoria Films centralized shipping for major Canadian distributors and Universal closed its Winnipeg office, he joined Hector Ross' Canfilm Screen Services, selling 16 mm films to remote northern communities. Flo later returned to Universal as a Film Booker, then joined Astral Films as Sales and Booking Manager, booking 35 mm films into Central Canadian theatres.

In 1973, Flo was invited by Phil Carlton and Irving Stern to discuss managing Warner Bros.' Winnipeg office. Over the next 20 years, he managed the company's western offices in Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Calgary. He joined Warner Bros.' Toronto office in 1993, booking western Canadian theatres, and was promoted in 2001 to lead the Canadian sales office following Phil Carlton's retirement. When Flo retired in 2008, he was Senior Vice President, Canadian Division Manager.

Flo joined the Canadian Picture Pioneers in 1981 and remained a strong supporter throughout his 51-year career. Following his passing in March, Sandy Power wrote: "Flo's impact on Warner Bros. and on the Canadian film industry runs deep. His presence, his character, and the countless ways he shaped the people around him will never be forgotten. His legacy lives on in the stories we share, the work he helped build, and the many lives he touched along the way." ■



Pierre Gauthier
1939 – 2026

Pierre grew up in movie theatres, beginning at age six at his grandfather's theatre in Quesnel, BC. He later helped his father, Paul, run the family theatre.

After college in Vancouver and a brief time outside the industry, Pierre returned in 1958 to help build the Casbar Drive-In, which included a motel. In the early 1960s, he moved to Calgary to work at the Odeon Grand Theatre – where main-floor tickets were 55 cents and balcony seats, where smoking was permitted, were 70 cents.

While managing Odeon theatres in Calgary, Pierre also rodeoed and met his wife, Velma. Together, they managed Calgary theatres for 20 years before transferring to Victoria in 1981, where they managed theatres for nearly 40 more years. At Cineplex Odeon Victoria, Pierre was known for his colourful showmanship and exceptional guest hospitality.

Pierre joined the Canadian Picture Pioneers in the mid-1980s and supported CPP BC Branch activities, earning a service recognition award at the 2008 annual awards dinner. After more than seven decades in the industry and nearly 60 years as a theatre manager, he retired in 2018. In retirement, he enjoyed time with family and friends – and as much golf as possible. ■

HONOURING OUR DEPARTED

Alberta
Leonard Binning

Ontario
Salah Bachir
Susan Johnson

Quebec
Claude Chéné

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission, Vision, Values

The CPP's Mission, Vision and Values were refreshed in 2026 to clarify who we are today, where we are headed, and how we want to work together in the years ahead.

Mission (Why we exist: what we do, for whom, and why.)

To strengthen and connect Canada's motion picture community across generations through compassionate assistance, industry fellowship, and public understanding.

Vision (The long-term impact or future state we aspire to create.)

A resilient and united Canadian motion picture community where the theatrical experience continues to inspire connection and opportunity.

Values (The seven lived behaviours that guide our actions, decisions, and culture.)

1. **Show Compassion in Action** – We respond to need with dignity, discretion, and practical support.
2. **Build Community Through Connection** – We invest in genuine relationships across the industry and generations.
3. **Honour the Legacy by Growing the Next Generation** – We preserve what was built before us while creating opportunities for those who come next.
4. **Communicate with Clarity and Integrity** – We tell the truth plainly and make sure others understand our purpose and impact.
5. **Serve with Responsible Stewardship** – We use resources wisely to maximize the support we provide.
6. **Celebrate the People Behind the Picture** – We champion the contributions of all who make Canadian cinema possible.
7. **Champion the Theatrical Experience** – We stand for cinema as a shared theatrical experience and for the exhibitors and communities who bring it to life.

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS

CANADIAN PICTURE PIONEERS TRUST FUND

For over 80 years, the Canadian Picture Pioneers has stood as the longest-serving charity in the nation's film industry. We function as a vital community support network, dedicated to the well-being of all industry professionals and those in the wider community across Canada.

We bring the industry together through high-energy national and regional networking events. These events drive the essential fundraising required to sustain our financial assistance programs for industry employees facing hardship.

Our mission is funded entirely by the generosity of our members and partners. To date, the CPP has provided over $4 million in total charitable assistance, ensuring our colleagues have the support they need when it matters most.

Do you know someone in the motion picture industry who is in need?

To inquire, send an email to:

adrian@canadianpicturepioneers.ca

Registered Charity No. 89161 4042 RR0001

CanadianPicturePioneers.ca

/canadianpicturepioneers @canadianpicturepioneers Canadian Picture Pioneers